

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Now Amended) A conveyor belt cleaning apparatus for cleaning a continuous loop conveyor belt having a surface and within a check stand, comprising:

a debris-removal stage comprising one or more scraping devices;

a washing stage;

a rinsing stage;

and a drying stage;

wherein said surface of said continuous loop conveyor belt passes through said stages to remove any debris and bacteria.

2. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 1, continuous or on-demand cleaning of a conveyor belt in order to remove any debris and fluids from the belt thereby providing a clean belt surface for use by the grocery store customer.

3. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a multi-chambered drawer and each of the said stages is provided with an isolated bin within the drawer.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Now Amended) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein said scraping device is a squeegee.
6. (Now Amended) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1; further comprising a cleaning solution sprayer positioned to forcefully spray a cleaning solution onto the surface of the conveyor belt.
7. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cleaning stage further comprises a cleaning roller that dispenses a cleaning solution onto the surface of the belt.
8. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 7, further comprising an idler wheel positioned adjacent said cleaning roller to maintain positive contact between said belt and said cleaning roller.

9. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 1, wherein said rinsing stage further comprises a rinsing wheel.
10. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 9, wherein said rinsing wheel rolls along the conveyor belt and pushes fluid from the surface of the conveyor belt.
11. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 1, wherein said drying stage further comprises one or more water removing squeegees positioned to contact the surface of the conveyor belt to squeegee water from its surface.
12. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 1, wherein said drying stage further comprises a fan to provide an air flow over the surface of the belt thereby expediting the drying of the conveyor belt.
13. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a drawer containing said debris-removal stage, said washing stage, said rinsing stage, and said water removal stage.

14. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 13, wherein said drawer further comprises one or more drain nozzles suitable for draining the used fluids from the conveyor belt cleaning apparatus without removal from a check stand.

15. (Original) The conveyor belt cleaning apparatus of claim 13, wherein said drawer further comprises a fill nozzle to allow for the addition of the cleaning fluids to the cleaning stage bin.

16. (Now Amended) A conveyor belt cleaning apparatus comprising:
a means for cleaning the surface of a conveyor belt comprising one or more scraping devices;
a means for rinsing the surface of a conveyor belt;
a means for drying the surface of a conveyor belt, said means for drying comprising at least one squeegee in contact with said surface of the conveyor belt.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Now Amended) The conveyor cleaning apparatus of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 16, wherein said ~~means for scraping~~ device further comprises at least one squeegee.

19. (Now Amended) A method of cleaning a continuous conveyor belt comprising:

providing a means for cleaning the surface of a conveyor belt wherein the means for cleaning further comprises one or more scraping devices;

providing a means for rinsing the surface of a conveyor belt; and

providing a means for drying the surface of a conveyor belt, said means for drying comprising at least one squeegee in contact with said surface of the conveyor belt.

20. (Now Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said ~~means for cleaning the surface of a conveyor belt~~ one or more scraping devices further comprises at least one squeegee.

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